The Community Foundation
BOULDER COUNTY

Media Release

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The Conversation Project in Boulder County Engages Phyllis Coletta as Director

The Project fosters effective and meaningful conversations about end-of-life care.

Boulder (May 12, 2016) – Ms. Phyllis Coletta has been engaged as the Director of The Conversation Project in Boulder County. Her experience as an attorney, a Buddhist chaplain, an emergency room technician and a consultant with the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare underlies her dedication to proactive end-of-life planning.

Since its inception in 2013, fifteen dedicated Conversation Project volunteers have reached nearly 4,000 people in Boulder County with the message about the importance of proactive family conversations about end-of-life values and wishes. Recently the Conversation Project in Boulder County was awarded $200,000 by the Colorado Health Foundation, funding two years of operations and program development. The Colorado Health Foundation has committed $3.75 million to improving advance care planning in the state.

"The Project has set off a dialogue in the community in the home, in faith communities and in the physician's office. With the addition of Phyllis to our team and the funding from the Colorado Health Foundation, we plan to diversify our offerings and reach 15% more people in 2016," says Constance Holden, co-founder of the initiative in Boulder County.

According to Jean Abbott, MD and co-founder, "While the primary focus of our work will be public engagement, we also plan to prepare health care providers to accept and respect documents that patients have prepared."

The Project is modeled after The Conversation Project headquartered in Cambridge, MA, conceived by former Boston Globe columnist and Pulitzer Prize winning author Ellen Goodman. The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County serves as the fiscal sponsor for the local project.

"We share the Project's belief that having honest conversations about end-of-life care with family members and others is essential," say Josie Heath, President of The Community

Foundation Serving Boulder County. “This grassroots effort aims to develop a model project that can be replicated by other communities.”

Learn more about The Conversation Project in Boulder County at theconversationprojectinboulder.org.

About The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County
The Community Foundation is a community catalyst, responding to immediate needs and anticipating future challenges. Through informed decision-making, we inspire ideas, ignite action and galvanize diverse resources to improve the quality of life for all. Advancing inclusivity and providing leadership and on key issues, the foundation collaborates with community-minded individuals and organizations that want to make a difference, accomplishing more together than alone. Since its founding in 1991, the foundation has granted more than $68.9 million to Boulder County nonprofits focused on animals and the environment, the arts and culture, basic needs, children and youth, civic engagement, education, and health and human services. commfound.org/news

Phyllis Coletta, Director, Conversation Project Boulder County

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